

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes - Thursday, February 25, 2010

The meeting was held at the Town Hall and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tom Ragonese. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo, Richard Lepore, Carmelo Amoddio, Kevin Rodgers and Tom Pentalow. Also present were Stathis Manousos, President Wethersfield Soccer Club and Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

No comments.

B. Minutes – January 28, 2010.

Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2010. The motion was seconded by Tom Pentalow and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – January 2010.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

None.

E. Old Business.

1. New Little League Field – Press Box Status.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on the press box construction. She reported that the remaining work is electrical. The volunteer electrician will be completing this work when the weather gets a little warmer.

Chairperson Ragonese told Board members that he and Ms. Bagley are invited to the next Little League Board meeting on the second Tuesday in March. The meeting will be at the Police Station at 8:00 p.m. Discussion will be on the spring season and athletic fields.

2. Greenfield Softball Field.

Ms. Bagley explained that she had not received a request from the High School softball team to use Greenfield field. She noted that this field is assigned to the Girls Little League program and they would have first priority on this field.

3. Cove Park Docks.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for the status on the Cove Dock review process. Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Inland Wetlands Commission has continued their review of this project until their next meeting in March. The Inland Wetlands Commission is studying the plans and will vote on the project at their meeting in March.

F. New Business.

1. Budget 2010-11.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Parks and Recreation budget included in their packet with Board members. He noted that the budget increase was approximately \$15,000 overall. Carmelo Amoddio noted that it was a 1% increase. Ms. Bagley explained that no raises will be given to part time workers for next year and staff made some cuts in program areas to try and get to a zero increase. Board members liked the Town Manager's new format with all the budgets combined into one budget and divided into program categories. This budget provided more information to them. The request for next year is \$1,494,737. This year's budget is \$1,479,491. Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Manager had requested the operating costs for each of the outdoor pools. These costs were

prepared for him. The Town Manager will be reviewing the department budgets in the next few weeks and will work with the Town Council to prepare the budget.

2. Wethersfield Soccer Club.

Mr. Stathis Manousos, President of Wethersfield Soccer Club, met with Board members to discuss any issues the Soccer Club had with the town. The Advisory Parks and Recreation Board has been inviting representatives from the different sport organizations in town to their meetings to discuss any concerns they have with facilities or operations. Mr. Manousos came to the meeting at 7:50 p.m. He reported that his organization had no issues with the town, they just had some questions about Cottone Field. One question centered on the small soccer field at Cottone Field. The fence behind the goal is too low to stop all the soccer balls from entering the overgrown area behind the fence. He asked if this overgrown area could be cleared out and a gate installed on the fence for easier access to get the balls that go over the fence. Ms. Bagley thought that one of the light pole footings for Cottone Field might be placed in the overgrown area. If that were the case, the area would be cleared for the installation. She will check the plans for the light footing. Mr. Manousos also asked if the gates on Church Street and Westway Street could be unlocked for practices or games. People could park on these streets and enter the field through these gates. Board members had no problem with unlocking the gates on these streets in order for groups that use the field. This request will have to go to the Town Manager, because keeping the gates locked is a town policy. The status of the lights for Cottone Field was discussed. Everyone was in agreement that the lights are a good idea and hopefully funds can be found to pay for the remainder of the project. Ms. Bagley will get a report on the construction status and fundraising for this project. Mr. Ragonese thanked Mr. Manousos for attending the Park Board meeting and speaking with Board members about the soccer group's concerns.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Tom Pentalow and seconded by Carmelo Amoddio to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department